



Robin Ponti

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Robin Ponti

SCHOOL: Berney Elementary

Position: 4th grade Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 2 years

Q. How do you prepare your students for the new school year?

A. We start the new school year by spending a lot of time working on team work and building our relationships. This helps the students feel comfortable and safe taking academic risks so they can make the growth needed to be successful.

Q. Why is 4th grade a critical year for academic growth?

A. Kindergarten through third grade are the primary years when students are learning to read. But in fourth grade they begin reading to learn. We are teaching them to have more stamina so they can read harder texts with more vocabulary and solve more complex math problems. A lot more critical thinking takes place in fourth grade.

Q. Why is the use of data important to you as a teacher?

A. It helps me know the next steps I need to take to fill in the holes my students might have in their learning. In fourth grade I might have a student who is an awesome reader and his/her comprehension is really high. But then I realize there is a gap in the student's phonics and the student is not decoding words correctly. The data allows me to go back and fill in that gap so there is not a problem in middle school or high school.

Q. How does your fourth grade teaching team help you become a better educator?

A. It is helpful to have people to bounce ideas off of and teach each other new strategies. This is my second year at Berney and my sixth year of teaching. It is nice to have colleagues to turn to if I have questions and help me problem solve.

Over



**MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
ROBIN'S CLASS:**



COMMENTS FROM ROBIN:

It is neat to see the district doing so well too. It will be really great to one day see some of my fourth graders graduate from high school so I have a personal connection to the high school test scores. It is wonderful to work in a district with high success rates.

I grew up in Lake Stevens, Washington near Everett. I went to WSU – Go Cougs! I majored in elementary education.



This year I will begin National Boards or a professional certification program. My husband is Bryan Ponti. We were married in July. We enjoy spending time with our two dogs and often hike around Bennington Lake.